

Appl. No. 10/776,048  
Amdt. Dated 06/21/05  
Reply to Office Action of 03/21/05

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for attracting and holding rodents within a confined area, said apparatus comprising:

a cage formed from durable material and having a cavity sufficient for holding a plurality of rodents therein, said cage including oppositely spaced end portions having a plurality of apertures formed therein for defining an entrance path into said cage respectively, said cage further including a top surface having an aperture formed therein for defining a path through which bait may be deposited into said cage, said cage further including a bottom surface including a door pivotally attached to said cage for allowing a user to access rodents trapped within said cage, said cage further including a plurality of trap doors pivotally connected to said cage and adjacent said opposed end portions for causing rodents to enter the cavity and become trapped therein as the rodents move towards the bait[-], said plurality of trap doors comprising

a plurality of outer end portions;

a plurality of deformably resilient spring members directly connected to said plurality of outer end portions and said cage, said spring members being adaptable between tensed and relaxed positions, said spring members being adapted to a tensed position when the rodents enter said apparatus through the entrance paths and move inwardly towards the bait, said plurality of trap doors pivoting downwardly about said plurality of outer end portions thereof when said spring members are adapted to a tensed position, said spring members being adapted to a relaxed position when said plurality of trap doors pivot upwardly to a resting position after rodents enter the cavity; and

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a plurality of stop members directly connected subjacent to said outer end portions of said plurality of trap doors, and extending outwardly from and parallel to said outer end portions, and for preventing said trap doors from pivoting upwardly beyond a resting position.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bait path defined by the top surface aperture is disposed in a substantially vertical direction medially of said opposed end portions of said cage so that bait can be positioned between the entrance paths.

4. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cavity is disposed below the entrance paths so that rodents cannot escape from the cavity after entering therein.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
a plurality of handles secured to said cage for assisting a user to transport same between remote locations.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cage is formed from wire mesh material.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus for attracting and holding rodents within a confined area, said apparatus comprising:

a cage formed from durable material and having a cavity sufficient for holding a plurality of rodents therein, said cage including oppositely spaced end portions having a plurality of apertures formed therein for defining an entrance path into said cage respectively, said cage further including a top surface having an aperture formed therein for defining a path through which bait may be deposited into said cage, said cage

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further including a bottom surface including a door pivotally attached to said cage for allowing a user to access rodents trapped within said cage, said cage further including a plurality of trap doors pivotally connected to said cage and adjacent said opposed end portions for causing rodents to enter the cavity and become trapped therein as the rodents move towards the bait, said plurality of trap doors comprising

a plurality of outer end portions;

a plurality of deformably resilient spring members directly for connectinged to said plurality of outer end portions to and said cage, said spring members being adaptable between tensed and relaxed positions, said spring members being adapted to a tensed position when the so that as rodents enter said apparatus through the entrance paths and move inwardly towards the bait, said plurality of trap doors will pivoting downwardly about said plurality of outer end portions thereof when said spring members are adapted to a tensed position, and thereafter said spring members being adapted to a relaxed position when said plurality of trap doors pivot upwardly to a resting position after rodents enter the cavity; and

a plurality of stop members directly connected subjacent to said outer end portions of cage adjacent said plurality of trap doors, and extending outwardly from and parallel to said outer end portions, and for preventing same from pivoting upwardly beyond a resting position.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the bait path defined by the top surface aperture is disposed in a substantially vertical direction medially of said opposed end portions of said cage so that bait can be positioned between the entrance paths.

9. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the cavity is disposed below the entrance paths so that rodents cannot escape from the cavity after entering therein.

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10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising:  
a plurality of handles secured to said cage for assisting a user to transport same between remote locations.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said cage is formed from wire mesh material.

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus for attracting and holding rodents within a confined area, said apparatus comprising:

a cage formed from wire mesh material and having a cavity sufficient for holding a plurality of rodents therein, said cage including oppositely spaced end portions having a plurality of apertures formed therein for defining an entrance path into said cage respectively, said cage further including a top surface having an aperture formed therein for defining a path through which bait may be deposited into said cage, said cage further including a bottom surface including a door pivotally attached to said cage for allowing a user to access rodents trapped within said cage, said cage further including a plurality of trap doors pivotally connected to said cage and adjacent said opposed end portions for causing rodents to enter the cavity and become trapped therein as the rodents move towards the bait, said plurality of trap doors comprising

a plurality of outer end portions;

a plurality of deformably resilient spring members directlyfor connectinged  
to said plurality of outer end portions to and said cage, said spring members  
being adaptable between tensed and relaxed position, said spring members  
being adapted to a tensed position when the so that as rodents enter said apparatus through the entrance paths and move inwardly towards the bait[,] said plurality of trap doors ~~will~~ pivoting downwardly about said plurality of outer end portions thereof when said spring members are adapted to a tensed position, and thereafter said spring members being adapted to a relaxed position when said  
plurality of trap doors pivot upwardly to a resting position after rodents enter the cavity; and

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a plurality of stop members directly connected subjacent to said outer end portions of cage adjacent said plurality of trap doors, and extending outwardly from and parallel to said outer end portions, and for preventing same from pivoting upwardly beyond a resting position.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the bait path defined by the top surface aperture is disposed in a substantially vertical direction medially of said opposed end portions of said cage so that bait can be positioned between the entrance paths.

14. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the cavity is disposed below the entrance paths so that rodents cannot escape from the cavity after entering therein.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:  
a plurality of handles secured to said cage for assisting a user to transport same between remote locations.